



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

LOST LANDS, FORGOTTEN REALMS by Dr Bob Curran

Career Press, Franklin Lakes, USA, 2007
ISBN 978-1-56414-958-9 (270pp tpb)
Available: <http://www.careerpress.com>

Captivation with lands and places beyond the horizon—the next town, continent or even planet—has been part of humanity's outlook since time immemorial. Irish psychologist and historian Dr Bob Curran brings the legends alive in *Lost Lands, Forgotten Realms*; some of these mysterious places have been discovered, but others remain undiscovered or only appear to the locals every once in a while, such as the romanticised Scottish village of Brigadoon.

In this fascinating encyclopaedia of "places that time forgot", Dr Curran regales us with tales of the better-known mythical lands such as Atlantis, Avalon, Shangri-La and Lemuria as well as lesser-known secret lands. For instance, there's Hy-Brasil (perhaps an extension of the Celtic Underworld), the sunken land of Lyonesse (said to be located between the tip of Cornwall and the Scilly Isles in the English Channel), and Hyperborea (the furthest northerly point in the world, according to the ancient Greeks).

There are stories of subterranean worlds peopled by survivors from disasters such as the Great Flood who fled into the underground for safety. These are sourced from a variety of cultures including Semitic, Greek, Assyrian and Roman. There's a selection of tales about what's to be found in the cave systems of California's Monterey Peninsula (an intact Viking boat, for instance), in the

elusive "St Martin's Land" in Suffolk, England (with strange visitors and green-coloured children), and near Monte Alban in Oaxaca, Mexico ("The Cavern of Death", which local Indians refuse to enter).

Dr Curran concludes that many legendary places may well be rooted in historical and geographical fact, but others have been given colour and mystique by the human imagination. Even if they don't exist outside the human mind, they are part of our culture and our relationship with the wider world. The haunting b&w illustrations by Ian Daniels are a fitting aid to visualisation.

THE JOURNEY OF ROBERT MONROE

by Ronald Russell

Hampton Roads, Charlottesville, VA, 2007
ISBN 978-1-57174-533-0 (384pp hc)
Available: <http://www.hrpub.com>

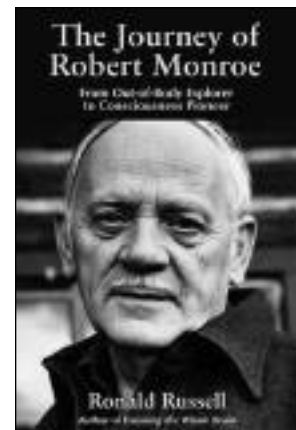
One of the great 20th-century researchers into consciousness came not from an academic or scientific background but from the world of writing and producing for radio in New York City and owning a broadcasting station in Virginia. Robert Monroe (1915–1995) happened by chance at the age of 42 to have an out-of-body experience that changed his life, and he was eventually compelled to make sense of the experience.

Monroe went on to explore his inner world and wrote about these experiences in his pioneering book *Journeys Out of the Body*, published in 1971 but based on his work between 1958 and 1963. He is also renowned for his Hemi-Sync audio technology, which utilises selected sound frequencies to induce altered states. He set up his now-famous institute and inspired many thousands of people to find their inner spirit

and explore realms beyond the known.

Twelve years after Monroe's death comes a new biography by Ronald Russell, an Englishman who met Monroe in 1986 and along with his wife Jill became a member of the Monroe Institute's advisory board. Russell gives a no-holds-barred account of Bob Monroe the man, his life and achievements, along with glimpses into his sometimes brusque personality—for instance, with his intransigence over planning a "New Land" community. The reflective foreword is by fellow consciousness researcher Dr Charles Tart, who met Monroe in 1965 and stayed a close friend to the end.

Of course, Monroe the visionary is the image that retains the greatest hold on the public imagination, and Russell puts due emphasis on the various programs such as Explorers, Guidelines and Lifeline and on the many personalities who were part of the grand adventure. To Russell, Monroe's journey was that of a hero who left behind a legacy that continues to enrich humanity.



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TEN YEARS: An incredible true story of corruption, injustice and the triumph of the human spirit by Roseanne Catt

Elvis Press, Australia, 2007 reprint (first pub. by Pan Macmillan, Sydney, 2005) ISBN 978-0-9756746-5-9 (325pp tpb) Available: www.justice4roseanne.com

This is the gripping, disturbing story of an innocent, caring woman's victimisation at the hands of her violent, foul-mouthed, manic-depressive husband, certain corrupt members of the New South Wales police force, the Crown judiciary and the correctional system, elements of the mass media and even the children she tried to protect from sexual and physical abuse by their father and possibly other perpetrators.

Roseanne Catt was framed for allegedly trying to poison her husband Barry Catt, and in 1991 she was sentenced to 12 years in prison. It was such an outrageous miscarriage of justice, and the malicious people who managed to plant false evidence in her home and engineer her trial and incarceration lied bold-faced to the court and got away with it. As well as Barry Catt (he was never poisoned or killed), the chief stand-over merchants were one Detective-Sergeant Peter Thomas and his accomplice Adrian Newell, and none has been brought to justice. All sorts of sordid secrets were being covered up in Taree, NSW, it seems.

Fortunately for Roseanne, a group of relatives, friends, supporters and *pro bono* lawyers, helped along by an exposé by ABC TV's *Four Corners*, managed to secure her release in 2001 on special bail. What ensued was an 18-month judicial enquiry and hearings that resulted in a report in favour of Roseanne delivered to the Court of

Criminal Appeal in late 2004.

The story ends with Roseanne waiting to be vindicated in the eyes of the law, let alone compensated for her suffering. It's a well-written tale of courage against the odds, the power of the human spirit and the quest for justice. It's all the more frightening when you consider that such appalling treatment as this could happen to just about anyone. Visit Roseanne Catt's website (www.justice4roseanne.com) for updates on her case and insights into official corruption.

THE COSMIC WAR: Interplanetary Warfare, Modern Physics and Ancient Texts by Joseph P. Farrell

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA 2007 ISBN 978-1-931882-75-0 (437pp tpb) Available: adventuresunlimitedpress.com

While taking in evidence amassed by frontier scientists which suggests that Earth and our solar system have been subjected to cataclysmic events, Joseph P. Farrell hypothesises that such events could have been the result of cosmic warfare.

Author of the *Giza Death Star* series (see reviews, 11/02 and 13/01), Farrell posits that an ancient interplanetary war was fought aeons ago in our own solar system by means of highly advanced technology. Considering the exploded planet hypothesis of Tom van Flandern (which he dates to 3.2 million years ago), the scalar physics of Tom Bearden and the plasma physics of Hannes Alfvén and others, Farrell investigates the mechanism by which a planet could actually be exploded and could leave a belt of debris such as the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, place of a gigantic planet that according to Bode's law should have existed.

Ancient texts from Mesopotamia and Egypt inspire Farrell in his mission, as does evidence that the Nazis and even the French, British and Americans in more recent times have sought to discover and capitalise on artefacts in modern-day Iraq—artefacts that may describe ancient cosmic catastrophes involving high-tech weaponry, as hinted at in the fabled "Tablets of Destinies" attributed to the Egyptian god Thoth. The work of Dr Paul LaViolette informs Farrell's ideas, in that supernovae might have been purposely engineered by an advanced ET civilisation, as does that of Cremona and Thompson into the antiquity of humanity.

Reading this book, we're encouraged to reconsider everything in our local cosmos, from the placement of our Moon to Mars being a former moon of this legendary exploded planet. We're also asked to look at the possibility of occult missions to nearby cosmic bodies and the findings from remote viewing sessions. However crazy these ideas may seem, they're worth exploring.





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STARWALKERS AND THE DIMENSION OF THE BLESSED

by William Henry

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA 2007
ISBN 978-1-931882-79-8 (258pp tpb)
Available: adventuresunlimitedpress.com

Common to ancient cultures and mythologies including the Egyptian, Sumerian, Vedic, Mayan and Canaanite is the idea of the "Dimension of the Blessed", accessible via the "Field of Reeds", a doorway to a higher dimension of light. This doorway is a form of stargate through which "Starwalkers" or interdimensional beings travel to and from our earthly world, says William Henry in his new book which follows on from his *Cloak of the Illuminati* and *Oracle of the Illuminati* (see 11/03, 13/02).

Furthermore, Henry maintains that we are all potential Starwalkers, for our bodies have the inherent potential to interface with this higher dimension. The fact that humans are becoming galactic beings by "inserting" ourselves into space marks a return to the ancient recognition that the divine is within us. Moreover, the Large Hadron Collider, soon to go online near Geneva, is a type of time machine that will explore the "new dimensionality" of the periodic system and connect our 3D world with extra dimensions in a way that the "ancient blessed ones" did in exercising their mythic powers. This so-called "ring of truth" may even prove that we come from another dimension.

Henry uses his knowledge of etymology and symbology to show that the sages and shamans were describing the same truths about the physical cosmos and the hidden, spiritual cosmos; e.g., in Egypt, the reed was a symbol for knowledge and a tool of ascension as well as for writing and recording; the

Djed reed pillar was symbolic of a stairway to heaven, and the reed boat design may have represented a wormhole with entry and exit points for "starwalking" adepts.

Drawing on the mythological studies of Laurence Gardner, Zecharia Sitchin, John Allegro and Robert Temple, among many, and the frontier scientific findings of Paul LaViolette, Jeremy Narby, David Talbott and Wal Thornhill, Henry shows that access to higher, blessed realms is possible and, indeed, is our destiny. Compelling stuff!

SACRED SYMBOLS OF THE DOGON

by Laird Scranton

Inner Traditions, Rochester, USA, 2007
ISBN 978-1-59477-134-7 (262pp tpb)
Available: www.InnerTraditions.com

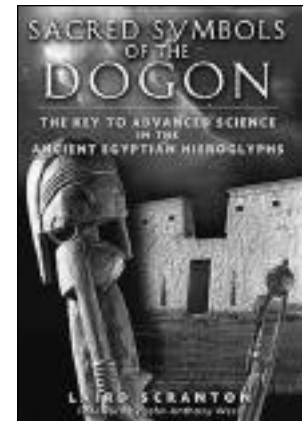
This extraordinary analysis of the similarities between the Dogon tribe of Mali, West Africa, and the ancient Egyptians comes out of left-of-field from software designer Laird Scranton, who has diverted his skills into the study of mythology, symbology and science. *Sacred Symbols of the Dogon* is the sequel to *The Science of the Dogon*, first published in a limited edition as *Hidden Meanings* (see NEXUS 11/01), and includes a supportive foreword by independent Egyptologist John Anthony West.

Scranton utilises findings from research conducted in the 1930s–50s by French anthropologists Marcel Griaule and Germaine Dieterlen, which details exoteric and esoteric aspects of the Dogon world view, and from Genevieve Calame-Griaule's dictionary of the Dogon language. He also reassesses the hieroglyphic translations of E. A. Wallis Budge, regarding these as extremely relevant to the Dogon language.

The Dogon people have no written lan-

guage but their symbols and spoken words have remarkable correspondences with ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, pronunciations and meanings. Dogon cosmology, Scranton says, delineates the evolution of the structure of matter with formative elements of "unformed" waves, perception, vibration/mass, Calabi–Yau space (wrapped bundles at every point of space-time), string intersections, membranes, quarks, protons/neutrons/electrons and atoms. These states are represented in Dogon ideographs and language and have their counterparts in Egyptian hieroglyphs and keywords—a case of formative influences due to awareness of scientific reality, not of gods.

As well, Scranton has determined that the design of the all-important Dogon granary has strong symbolic associations with the *stupa* of Buddhist tradition. Being of pre-pyramidal design, the granary speaks of an association with the Amazigh peoples who preceded the First Dynasty Egyptians. An exciting thesis to make us all think.



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PEAK EVERYTHING

by Richard Heinberg

Clairview Books, UK, 2007 (1st pub. by New Society Publishers, Canada, 2007)
ISBN 978-1-905570-13-3 (212pp tpb)
Available: www.clairviewbooks.com

In *Peak Everything*, Richard Heinberg continues many of the themes he tackled in *The Party's Over*, *Powerdown* and *The Oil Depletion Protocol* (see NEXUS 10/04, 12/05, 14/02). He says that in the early 21st century we're faced with decline in crucial areas and thus must make practical, psychological and cultural changes urgently if we're to make a graceful transition from excess to restraint. These crucial areas under threat include non-renewable energy resources (oil, natural gas, coal), minerals and ores, economic growth, agriculture and fisheries, fresh water supply and climate stability.

Our world is changing and can't keep up with our greed; so if we don't adapt, we can expect more wars and famines. Best, then, to highlight attributes that are *not* near their historical peaks, such as community, personal autonomy, cooperation and ingenuity, says Heinberg in his introduction.

This compilation of essays, often inspired by Heinberg's involvement in conversations, conferences and groups, is divided into three sections: technology, agriculture and the arts; nature's limits and the human condition; and the end of one era, the beginning of another. In his "Fifty Million Farmers", a speech he gave to the E. F. Schumacher Society, he calls for the de-industrialisation of agriculture, analyses Cuba's post-Soviet experience, and proposes local sustainable solutions such as backyard vegetable gardens (recalling the "Victory Gardens" project in the USA in WWII) and permaculture-

based communities. In "Five Axioms of Sustainability", Heinberg discusses the history and misuse of the terms "sustainable" and "sustainability" and presents five "self-evident truths", e.g., "to be sustainable, the use of *renewable* resources must proceed at a rate that is less than or equal to the rate of natural replenishment". In "Bridging Peak Oil and Climate Change Activism", he encourages depletion and emissions activists to cooperate on policy goals, so that energy efficiency and curtailment become the dominant responses to the problem of our fossil-fuel dependency. A clarion call to action.

ANIMAL PHARM

by Mark Purdey

edited by Nigel Purdey

Clairview Books, East Sussex, UK, 2007
ISBN 978-1-905570-11-9 (282pp tpb)
Available: www.clairviewbooks.com

It's a tragedy that organic farmer, father of eight and voracious researcher Mark Purdey, born in 1953, died so young (of a brain tumour in November 2006)—and just as many of his findings about TSEs (transmissible spongiform encephalopathies like BSE and CJD) were starting to be acknowledged in the scientific literature.

Mark Purdey had been planning to write a book and, indeed, wrote many articles that could have been the basis thereof (see NEXUS 10/03-04), but he died before he could complete the task. His older brother Neil Purdey leapt in to fill the gap, to ensure that Mark's groundwork is on the record and to honour the memory of a man of integrity, original thinking and commitment. In his introduction, he gives insights into what made Mark the unique human being he was.

Mark Purdey's run-ins with government

bureaucracies and the scientific orthodoxy started in 1984 when he refused to use a mandated, toxic, organophosphate pesticide on his dairy herd to control warble fly infestation. In time, he started to question whether the insecticide could have sparked the spread of "mad cow disease". His research domain spread from his farm to the world, where he visited regions with high TSE rates. He continued to refine his theory to include rogue silicate microcrystals entering the brain, and the role of high-intensity low-frequency infrasonic shock (e.g., from quarry explosions and low-flying supersonic aircraft) as a co-factor in TSE transmission. His journey is well documented here and includes coverage of his visit to Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Australia, to investigate Groote syndrome affecting the Aboriginal population, which he put down to manganese contamination.

This one man has helped create a paradigm shift in our understanding of how pollutants have a detrimental effect on health.





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ISAAC NEWTON'S FREEMASONRY by Alain Bauer

Inner Traditions, Rochester, USA, 2007
(originally pub. by Editions Dervy, 2003)
ISBN 978-1-59477-172-9 (146pp tpb)
Available: www.InnerTraditions.com

The establishment of speculative Freemasonry in England in the 17th century was due in large part to groupings of scientists and philosophers who wanted to free themselves from the anti-progressive clutches of organised religions and religious conflicts. Among them was Sir Isaac Newton, who presided over the Royal Society for 25 years from 1703 to 1727. This institution was born in 1660, and many of its members were Freemasons as well as leading lights in the Enlightenment era of spiritual and intellectual freedom.

Here, French historian Alain Bauer, Grand Master of the Grand Orient Lodge of France, reviews the history and origins of operative and speculative Freemasonry in England and points out where so many other authors over the centuries have erred in their interpretations. His book was published in French in 2003 and was recently translated into English. The foreword is provided by Michel Barat, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of France, who supports the notion that the first Freemasons sought to comprehend nature, the world and society and to promote freedom of the spirit. The afterword is by Roger Dachez, president of the Masonic Institute of France, who reiterates that it is a myth that speculative masonry derived from operative freemasons, as in the mediaeval cathedral builders.

Bauer suggests that speculative masonry was established in the early 1700s with the goal of replacing religious debate with scientific debate and with a view to creating a progressive society. It was rooted in the ancient Hermetic tradition, which included alchemy—a particular interest of Newton. The codification of masonic rites enabled masons to travel, recognise each other, visit other lodges and communicate their level of advancement on the masonic path.

This is just a brief overview of a tradition that still exerts an influence in our day.

THE MYSTERY OF 2012: Predictions, Prophecies & Possibilities by various contributors

Sounds True, Boulder, CO, USA, 2007
ISBN 978-1-59179-611-4 (420pp hc)
Available: www.soundstrue.com

The year 2012 holds many portents for both good and ill if the predictions and prophecies about it are any guide. This anthology of essays, interview records and book excerpts is compiled and introduced by Sounds True publisher Tami Simon, who

also provides perspective at the beginning of each contribution. Her interest in "the mystery of 2012" was sparked when she interviewed Mayan calendar expert José Argüelles at the time of the 1987 Harmonic Convergence—the start of the 25-year countdown to 2012, the end of the Great Cycle according to the Mayan calendar. Part of that interview is included here.

It seems that we could be in for a ramp-up in human evolution and/or for catastrophes affecting the solar system along with our planet at this tipping point. The Maya apparently pointed to an event where on the solstice of 21 December 2012, our Sun lines up with the equator of the Milky Way galaxy—a once in 26,000 years event. Scientist/philosopher Gregg Braden sets the tone in his opening essay, "Choice Point 2012: Our Date with the Window of Emergence", and looks at how shifts in the Earth's magnetic field can affect us and, indeed, have affected humanity in the past.

Essays on the Mayan cosmivision in the first part are from John Major Jenkins, Argüelles, Carl Johan Calleman as well as Robert Sitler, who presents a sceptical view and questions how much of the 2012 "hub-bub" is actually rooted in historical findings.



The second part, covering science, business and politics, includes essays from Ervin Laszlo on "The Birthing of a New World" and Jay Weidner on "The Alchemy of Time". Part three takes in spirituality and symbolism, with Lawrence E. Joseph on the "Bible Code" and Sharron Rose on "2012, Galactic Alignment and the Great Goddess"; the Egyptian goddess Isis, in this case.

The final part considers humanity's evolutionary prospects, with wisdom from visionary Jean Houston on "Jump Time", ecologist Joanna Macy on the "Great Turning" and James O'Dea, of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, who says 2012 is our "pay date" and we were "born for such a time as this".

Shift may well happen, and this collection sheds much light on this enigmatic date.

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UNDERSTANDING HUMANS, ETs & THE AWAKENING OF THE PLANETARY MIND

by Gary Opit

Gary Opit, Australia, 2007
ISBN n/a (142pp, spiral bound)
Available: PO Box 380, Mullumbimby,
NSW 2483, Australia, tel +61 (0)2 6680
5466, email garyopit@bigpond.com

In his self-published book, biologist Gary Opit advocates taking a multidisciplinary approach if we want to understand ourselves and our place in the universe. This understanding must also take into account the possibility of extraterrestrial life-forms, and Opit discusses numerous UFO and ET sightings—the eyewitnesses covering the gamut from top-level military personnel to Australian Aborigines in the desert.

Opit reviews the latest findings on planets outside our solar system and conjectures about what is required to support the evolution of life over extreme lengths of time. He



also explains how conditions on Earth seem to have been set up to promote the development of life; even the size, make-up and placement of the Moon relative to the Earth and, indeed, the tilt of our planet are conducive to the promotion of life—as if by some cosmically designed plan.

We're all part of one universal ecosystem, so it's natural to ask whether life exists elsewhere, says Opit (an occasional contributor to NEXUS; see 6/05, 9/01). If we consider the human organism, we have to admit that it is colonised by a vast array of symbiotic micro-organisms that are essential to our survival; so, again, we must know our place.

So, what might other intelligent life-forms look like? Going on contact reports of a range of extraterrestrial beings, Opit has classified these according to zoological terminologies; the family Juxtahominidae includes Elegant Humanoid (*Pseudohomo concinnus*), recorded in California in 1896, and Roswell Humanoid (*Homoides roswellensis*), seen at Roswell, New Mexico,

in 1947. Some creatures belong to orders and families not yet classifiable, e.g., Lizard Man (*Reptilishomo viridis*), reported in Missouri in 1983, and Mantis (*Doctagryllus tegimen*), an armoured insectoid species seen in Maryland in 1973.

By these accounts, the universe is indeed a strange, diverse place that should inspire us to be curious, not dismissive. Opit does his bit to encourage us to open our minds to ourselves and to other possibilities.

"THINGS" AND MORE "THINGS"

by Ivan T. Sanderson

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2007
(first published in 1967 and 1969)
ISBN 978-1-931882-78-1 (380pp tpb)
Available: adventuresunlimitedpress.com

Naturalist and explorer Ivan T. Sanderson regarded himself as a true Fortean—someone aligned with Charles T. Fort's worldview that one should investigate things scientifically but without believing what anybody else says, not caring what they say and having a good chuckle at a lot of what they do say. This book, "Things" and More "Things", is a reprint of two of Sanderson's books published in 1967 and 1969 and, coming as they did towards the end of his life, they recount some of the weirdest "things" he came across in his research.

These so-called "things", for want of a better word, he admits, he categorises under headings of Live Things, Dead Things, Man Things, Funny Things and Nasty Things. In the first book he considers the evidence for and investigation of "Globsters" (unknown marine creatures or whale blubber?), lake monsters and giant eels, the ringing rocks of Pennsylvania and the stone spheres of Costa Rica, unusual hominids such as the Toonijuk of Eskimo legend, UFO "nests" and oceanic light wheels; flying rocks in the San Bernadino Valley, California; and the phenomenon of suspended animation.

In the second book he discusses the "neodinosauurs" of Africa, people who are said to walk underwater, frozen mammoths, Bermuda Triangle disappearances and mass hallucinations, among other things.

Sanderson categorises "things" as established facts/theories/concepts; accepted things that are not yet explained; reported facts/objects whose existence cannot be denied but appear illogical or inexplicable; alleged events/things that can be denied and for which there is no known explanation; and others, i.e., nonmaterial things that defy explanation. He treats all these presented cases with an open mind in the spirit of inquiry, as well as with his wit and disbelief where appropriate, having a go, too, at the Establishment's weapon called "The Wipe". An informative and entertaining read.



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TEARS IN HEAVEN

by Ian Ross Vayro

Joshua Books, Buddina, Qld, 2007
ISBN 978-0-9804101-0-5 (507pp tpb)
Available: <http://www.joshuabooks.com>

The angels *should* be weeping in Heaven, knowing that "dark forces" have not only infiltrated our world but have created the very religious and secular institutions that keep humanity enslaved by fear, guilt and illogical, irrational belief systems. Hot on the heels of *God Save Us From Religion* and *They Lied to Us in Sunday School* (15/01 and 13/06) come more startling revelations from independent researcher Ian Ross Vayro. While not wanting to offend devout people who lead good lives and help others, Vayro is adamant that institution-alised religion is rotten to the core, and it's a rot that set in *more than* 2,000 years ago.

As usual, the lust for power and wealth is at the centre and it was epitomised in Rome with centuries of the Piso family's influence



from the time of Julius Caesar. The Roman Senate and the Empire itself were threatened by the rise of Judaism and its faithful who would do away with the slavery system that was intrinsic to the running of the Empire. Vayro says the Pisos enacted their plan to rewrite/rework the Old Testament, forcing the Jews to accept a revised messianic version of their holy texts, and to create books for a fabricated New Testament that was later officially adopted at the fourth-century Council of Nicaea. Utilising tenets of the Egyptian Sun God religion, they created a new state religion to stabilise the Empire. Members of the family included Arius Calpurnius Piso, who between AD 70 and 90 wrote the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and the epistles of Paul and apparently also wrote under the pen name of the Roman historian Josephus! This New Testament fraud was readily adopted by the new Church of Rome, says Vayro.

Seeing the Church as an entity founded and run by the shadowy Illuminati, Vayro

maintains that those same dark forces are enslaving us in a New World Order. The façade of the Vatican is falling apart under the weight of its own lies and deceptions, Vayro purports in this stunning exposé.

THE PAPAL BILLIONS

by Tony Bushby

Joshua Books, Buddina, Qld, 2007
ISBN 978-0-9804101-1-2 (248pp tpb)
Available: <http://www.joshuabooks.com>

For an institution founded on the back of a god-man who lived in poverty, we have to wonder how the (Roman) Catholic Church has amassed riches to surpass those of today's largest global corporations. In *The Papal Billions*, Tony Bushby (*The Bible Fraud* and *The Secret in the Bible*; 8/06, 11/02) says that when Emperor Constantine set up the Roman Church in the fourth century he appointed Simon of Petra as the first Bishop of Rome (contrary to the usual story placing him as St Peter in the first century) and instructed him and the new clergy to fleece the masses of their material wealth. This edict still holds sway, says Bushby, and over the centuries the Church continued to amass wealth—when it wasn't spending it, or losing it at the hands of heathen forces.

From the creation of the Papal States, fake places of pilgrimage and indulgences to dividing up the New World for its spoils and purloining the property of religious and secular rivals, the so-called Holy See has a sordid history of creating money-spinners which is at odds with its public preaching.

In the 19th century, with the loss of the Papal States, the Church in Europe was nearly financially ruined but in America it had joined the billionaires' club. The modern era of wealth creation began in 1929, after the signing of the Lateran Treaty with Italy, when Pope Pius XI gave his blessing to creating a money-making machine from investments in the secular world including in war-related industries and real estate speculation (within a decade becoming again the largest landowner in Rome). The Church's financial division turned its sights on global domination but was careful to disguise most of its holdings from the laity.

The Vatican Bank and insider gold trading scandals aside and notwithstanding the Church's priceless artworks, treasures and archives, the Vatican's fortune defies rational assessment, Bushby claims. It's a shame that a definitive list of its assets is impossible to compile, but the Pope himself may be worth at least US\$2,500 billion and the Church must be a trillion-dollar affair. For what purpose are these riches being accumulated and where's the benefit for the people? Bushby makes it clear that moral bankruptcy is at the heart of this wealth grab.

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DVDs

Compiled by Duncan Roads

THE SILENT REVOLUTION OF TRUTH

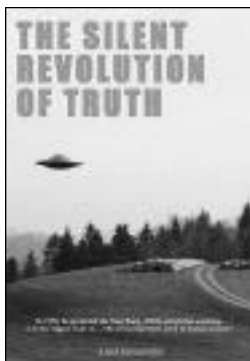
© 2007 Lightsource Entertainment and They Fly
Available: <http://www.theyfly.com>

The story of 71-year-old Billy Meier is more than just one of UFO pictures and visitations. His personal history is one that Indiana Jones himself would be hard pressed to live up to.

Whether it is meeting extraterrestrials at age five (back in 1942), joining and later escaping the French Foreign Legion, working in dozens of countries, meeting a 22-year-old Saddam Hussein, working at ashrams in India, hunting down serial killers for Turkish authorities, discovering ancient Aramaic scrolls in Jerusalem based only on information sent to him telepathically or surviving 21 assassination attempts, it is clear that Meier demands the attention of anyone seeking to understand the "big picture".

This is a professionally produced documentary. You learn much about Billy Meier and his past, and you see footage of people who can verify many of Billy's claims. I guarantee that even *any* veteran NEXUS reader will be amazed at some of the information in this documentary.

Highly thought-provoking!



SECRET MYSTERIES OF AMERICA'S BEGINNINGS:

Volume 1 – The New Atlantis

© 2007 Antiquities Research Films
Available: <http://www.cuttingedge.org>

This three-hour documentary unfolds the hidden history behind the founding of America and exposes the esoteric underbelly of its design. It asks some intriguing questions. Why is Washington, DC, built on the 77th meridian? Are the Revolutionary War cities (Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, DC) really built in perfect alignment with Stonehenge?



Sir Francis Bacon was at the helm of such societies as the leader of the Rosicrucians and first Grand Master of modern Freemasonry. As such, he is considered by some to be the true founder of America. For centuries controversy has surrounded this man, reputed to be the illegitimate son of Queen Elizabeth I and the real author behind the plays attributed to William Shakespeare.

Ley lines, masonic geometry, secret societies, historical conspiracies and more abound in this doco-fest!

SECRET MYSTERIES OF AMERICA'S BEGINNINGS:

Volume 2 – Riddles In Stone

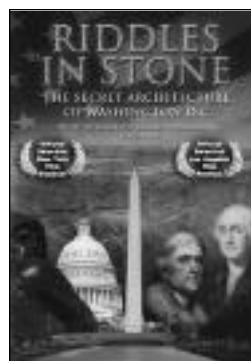
© 2007 Antiquities Research Films
Available: <http://www.cuttingedge.org>

Part two of this *Secret Mysteries...* series explores the highly controversial subject of America's capital, Washington, DC. Was the city built to reflect the majesty of American freedom, or the hidden agenda of secret societies? With every major cornerstone laid by Freemasons, was the city built in a Masonic pattern?

In this volume, the producers interview experts from both sides of the debate. They pose such questions as: Was Washington, DC, laid out according to the pattern of the stars? Is there really a pentagram in the street layout north of the White House? Does a masonic square and compass extend from the Capitol Building to the Washington Monument? And why is the city filled with zodiac symbols, mysterious faces and various god and goddess images?

Be aware that the producers of this series are committed Christians who automatically seem to assume that Freemasons, and all secret societies, are opposed to Christ and his teachings and are engaged in bringing in a New World Order, etc., etc.

However, they do dig up and present some interesting information—such as the sacred geometry embedded in the designs of cities—in this lengthy but well-produced and watchable production.





REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

URBAN MANTRA by various artists

Music Mosaic, 2007 (2CDs, 119mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Brumby, tel (03) 9761 5535; <http://www.music-mosaic.com>; **UK**—Sounds Travel, tel 01242 571659; **Germany**—Silenzio, tel +49 (0)180 5091301; **USA**—White Swan, tel (303) 527 0770

Music Mosaic is an Australian company having great success with compilations of inspiring world fusion music from all cultural traditions. CD 1, "Vitality", contains tracks from Prem Joshua, Larias Stow, Chloe Goodchild, Gabrielle Roth and more; these are the active energy mantras. CD 2, "Essence", has tracks from Deva Premal, Sacred Earth, Dya Singh, Azar Baksh, the record producer Ariel Kalma and more. Each mantra expresses something from a different culture. Collectively these mantras create a peaceful, heartfelt relaxation space.

THINK GLOBAL: WOMEN OF AFRICA by various artists

World Music Network (with Oxfam), UK, 2007 (60mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—WMN, tel 020 7498 5252, website <http://www.worldmusic.net>

Women in Africa are in a position where they need to express themselves but have a great many cultural and political processes working against them. Oxfam has united with World Music Network to bring some of these voices of female independence to the public ear. Names such as Oumou Sangare, Gigi, Rokia Traoré, Mariem Hassan and Miriam Makeba all stand out on this staggering collection.

SOUL IN WONDER by Miten with Deva Premal

Silenzio Music, 2007 (52mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Brumby Music, tel (03) 9761 5535; **Germany**—Silenzio Music, tel +49 (0)180 5091301; **USA**—Prabhu Music, tel 415 331 8273, website <http://www.prabhumusic.net>; also see <http://www.DevaPremalMiten.com>

Miten, accompanied by Deva Premal with her divine vocals, is a seasoned artist at the peak of his poetic powers. His tales of meditation, acceptance and revelation are enhanced by the bansuri flute of Manose, along with kora, slide guitar, violin, mandolin and Hammond organ. There are attractive covers of Van Morrison, Peter Makena and Mississippi Fred McDowell songs, plus Miten's heartfelt compositions

such as "Humaniversal". Groove mingles with the incense smoke and banyan trees of India on this warm, soul album.

ZARAMBEQUES by Armoniosi Concerti with Juan Carlos Rivera
Harmonia Mundi, Spain, 2006 (74mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Select Audio, tel (02) 8966 3307; **Germany**—Harmonia Mundi, tel +49 (0)711 2567671; **USA**—Harmonia Mundi; <http://www.worldvillagemusic.com>

The music of an earlier Spain is captured on this superb album, whose name comes from "the rowdy and lively strumming and dancing" that was a prominent feature of 18th-century Spanish theatre. Juan Carlos Rivera, together with three guitarists and a cellist, has created an exquisite production of 17th- and 18th-century Spanish Baroque music. This is beautifully performed, full of cross-rhythm sounds with a touch of the Spanish court and guitar as the central instrument. Outstanding album.

NA AFRIKI by Dobet Gnahoré
Cumbancha Music, USA, 2007 (54mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Putumayo, tel 07759 600 495; **USA**—Cumbancha, tel (802) 425 2118, <http://www.cumbancha.com>

Dobet Gnahoré, from Ivory Coast, is a powerful new voice amongst contemporary African musicians and has great appeal for world music audiences. On *Na Afriki* ("To Africa") she sings in eight languages representing the length and breadth of the continent. This is a truly pan-African album, not just in choice of languages but in its lyrical themes. With her husband and collaborator Colin Laroche de Féline, Dobet has composed 15 tracks that examine contemporary African life. She reaches beyond her own country to speak directly to the rest of the continent, breaking new ground for African popular music. A passionate voice, whether with a ballad or an upbeat groove.

